

MINUTES of the AURORA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
80 N. Broadway, Aurora, Illinois
Thursday, December 14, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
INVOCATION

ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISH QUORUM

Supervisor Bill Catching called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led all present in the pledge of allegiance. Trustee Hicks gave the invocation. Clerk Cassidy Alexander called the roll and declared a quorum with the following officials and board members present: Supervisor Catching; Trustees Dolores Hicks, Sam Núñez (remote), and Juanita Wells, and Highway Commissioner Jason Owens. Trustee David Moore and Assessor Davis Offutt were excused absent. Staff present: Director of Finance and Administration Patty Richardson, Delia Gomez and Arturo Gonzalez of the Assessor's Office, and Melissa Wilmot of Aurora Township Ride-In-Kane. Public present: Deputy Santiago Hernandez of the Kane County Sheriff Department, Steve Reinhart, Ray Mendez, George Scowins, Tom Passaro and Dr. Peggy Hicks. NOTE: Because Trustee Núñez was joining by Zoom, all votes were by roll call.

II. Supervisor Catching moved to **Approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 16, 2023**, which was seconded by Trustee Núñez. Roll Call vote : Catching - Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Abstain (due to her absence on November 16). The motion carried.

III. Approval and/or Audit of Township and Road District Bills

a. Supervisor Catching moved to approve the combined Town Fund, Road and Bridge Fund, General Assistance Fund, Mental Health Fund, Equipment & Building Fund, Town IMRF Fund, Town Social Security Fund, Road & Bridge Social Security Fund, and R&B IMRF Fund bills as presented to the board. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. The bills are as follows:

Town Fund.....	\$49,534.09
Road & Bridge Fund.....	\$25,375.45
General Assistance Fund.....	\$5,323.04
Mental Health Fund.....	\$24,292.89
Equipment & Building Fund.....	\$278,492.35
Town IMRF Fund.....	\$1,140.13
Town Social Security Fund.....	\$9,954.86
R&B Social Security Fund.....	\$2,378.54
R&B IMRF Fund.....	\$280.97

The total for all funds is \$396,772.32. Roll Call: Catching - Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The motion carried.

b. Roll Call Vote on **Approval of Board Member Expenses:**

Trustee Dolores Hicks moved to approve the expenses incurred by board members during the Township Officials of Illinois annual meeting in Springfield, with each board member voting on the other board member expenses and abstaining from voting on their own expenses (only 3 votes needed for each). This was seconded by Trustee Wells.

- Cardmember Services – Juanita Wells TOI Conference Holiday Inn Express Hotel Charges \$223.44
- Cardmember Services – Sam Núñez TOI Conference Holiday Inn Express Hotel Charges \$223.44
- William Catching – TOI Conference Hotel \$636.08 for several days for his extra duties, plus treated the Senior Advisory Council to Pizza \$56.82. Overall total expenses: \$1,139.78.

Roll Call vote: Catching - Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The motion carried.

IV. REPORTS

a. Assessor's Report

Assessor Davis Offutt submitted a written report on the usual duties of the office.

b. Highway Commissioner's Report

Highway Commissioner Jason Owens submitted a written report on the usual duties of the office. He stated that he is working on an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) among all the townships of Kane County so that townships can share equipment. He said this was vetted by the Aurora Township lawyer (Paul Patricoski), our insurance carrier (TOIRMA) and many other entities. He explained that he would ask for approval after he has 9 of 16 townships signed on. He stated he currently has 6 on board.

c. Supervisor's Report

•Supervisor Catching said he chaired the quarterly meeting of the PACE Ride-In-Kane and complained strongly about the 3-month delay in their billing. He said the bills doubled in June but we didn't find out until much later, which makes it very difficult to budget for. He also reported that the annual Christmas party for staff and officials was December 13 at the township offices.

d. Director of Community Services Report

Director of Community Services Ken Maurice submitted a written report on usual activities.

e. Kane County Deputy Sheriff's Report

Deputy Santiago Hernandez said he and Dep. Demeter worked with code enforcement to go through the South Park neighborhoods to check ordinance violations and educate and help people on how to comply before they are cited. He said the Sheriff Department has two new speed trailers to set up around the township where they are needed. He added that the Aurora Fire Department Christmas convoy would be going through Ogden Gardens, Mocherville, and many other neighborhoods on the east side on Sunday, December 17 to spread goodwill.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Ordinance 2023-38 Aurora Township Tax Levy

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the Aurora Township Tax Levy. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching noted that the levy has been on public display for 30 days. Director of Finance Patty Richardson elaborated that we have budgeted about \$4.5 million across all town funds which is a .5% increase over last year. She said the costs will not be felt as much because of all the new construction in the township.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The ordinance passed.

b. Ordinance 2023-39 Aurora Township Road District Tax Levy

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the Aurora Township Road District tax levy. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. Highway Commissioner Jason Owens said he asked for 5% across the board because his department's budget is mainly consumables which have been continually rising in price, so this is needed to keep up with inflation. Trustee Núñez asked about the taxes and Owens confirmed that new construction would help offset a rise in individual taxes.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The ordinance passed.

c. Resolution 2023-40 Senior Citizens Services Grant Funding 2023-2024 Fiscal Year

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the Senior Citizens Services Grant Funding for fiscal year 2023-2024. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. The grants are as follows:

Senior Services Associates.....\$295,690
 Marie Wilkinson Food Pantry.....75,690
 Living Daylight Organization.....\$65,000
 Association for Individual Development.....\$50,000
 Kane Senior Council.....\$5,000

Catching said that we only received 99% of what we should have because some people didn't pay their taxes, and so some hard decisions had to be made. The total we are granting is \$491,380, and we were asked for \$600,000. He thanked the volunteers who reviewed and interviewed the grant organization representatives.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

d. Resolution 2023-41 Authorizing Supervisor to Purchase Used Vehicles

Supervisor Catching moved to table Resolution 2023-41 authorizing the supervisor to purchase used vehicles. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. Catching stated the used vehicle that they had wanted to purchase as the new VNA shuttle was already sold so they are still looking. The Youth Center did get their van.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

e. Resolution 2023-42 Approval of Board Meeting Schedule for 2024

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the Board meeting schedule for 2024. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. Catching said this is the same standard schedule that we have had, meeting on second and fourth Thursdays except for November, which has one meeting, and April, where the Annual Town Meeting must be held on a Tuesday.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

f. Resolution 2023-43 Appointing Members to Aurora Township Youth Commission

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the appointment of five people to the Aurora Township Youth Commission. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching publicly thanked Director of Community Services Ken Maurice for getting the Youth Commission going again. The appointees are:

James Brown (Reappointment); Diane Christian of Aurora Public Library (reappointment); Jason Owens of Aurora Township Highway Department (reappointment); Alicia Hann of Birth to Five Illinois; and Jennifer Haurykiewicz of Aurora Township. All their terms will expire March 1, 2026.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

g. Approval of Holiday Schedule

Supervisor Catching moved to approve the holiday schedule for 2024. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching said he follows the Kane County schedule.

Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

h. Resolution 2023-44 Recognizing Retirement of Steven Reinert

Supervisor Catching moved for a formal recognition of the retirement of Steven Reinert. It was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Catching read a prepared statement noting Mr. Reinert's faithful service to the residents of Aurora Township as a Ride-In-Kane driver for ten years and offered the board's respect and gratitude for always treating his riders with dignity, equality and respect. Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

i. Resolution 2023-45 Recognizing Retirement of Kenneth Maurice

Supervisor Catching moved for a formal recognition of the retirement of Kenneth Maurice. It was seconded by Trustee Wells. Catching read a prepared statement noting Mr. Maurice's faithful service to the residents of Aurora Township in several capacities, with particular focus on helping our youth, for over seventeen years, most recently as

Director of Community Service. He offered the board's gratitude for always treating staff, co-workers and the youth with whom he worked with dignity, equality, patience, and respect. Roll call vote: Catching – Y; Hicks – Y; Núñez – Y; Wells – Y. The resolution passed.

VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Trustee Wells said that she always learns something new at the annual TOI conference and said it was well worth attending. She commented that the Township Officials of Illinois does a good job and that Aurora Township is doing a good job, too.
- Trustee Hicks said we did not have a flag in the TOI parade of flags and that we need to do that next year.
- Highway Commissioner Owens, on behalf of the Highway Department, thanked the township for their holiday meal, with Delia Gomez of the Assessor's Office seconding that notion.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. Peggy Hicks thanked Steven Reinert for his service, remembering when he took the summer kids to Starved Rock. She said we always felt comfortable with him. She thanked Ken Maurice as well, noting he has done many wonderful things for our youth.

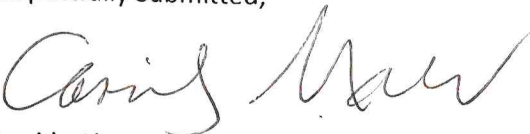
VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Supervisor Catching said The Decennial Committee will meet December 28, following the Aurora Township Board Meeting.
- He also announced the Senior Citizens Dinner will be at the 3rd Ward Club on December 16, and they expect to serve 500 meals.
- Trustee Hicks said that Friday, Dec. 15, would be the Senior Services dinner which will be catered.
- She added that the Senior Citizens Service Committee meeting is canceled this month.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Catching moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Trustee Hicks. Motion carried by unanimous Roll Call vote and the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Cassidy Alexander, Town Clerk